

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20 are pending in this application. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 18 is amended by the present amendment. As amended Claim 18 is supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

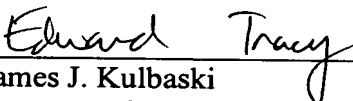
**Initially, it is respectfully noted that references AW and AX listed on the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 16, 2004 were not initialed as considered on the PTO form 1449 included with the outstanding Office Action. It is respectfully requested that a PTO form 1449 with these two references initialed as considered be provided with the next Office Communication.**

With regard to the rejection of Claim 17, Claim 17 is canceled herewith, making the outstanding rejection moot. Allowed Claim 18 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 17.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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